

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), WB

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BERLIN

FOR AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND AND MINISTER GEORGE

1. SECRETARY, DURING HIS LUNCHEON FOR BRANDT, SPOKE TO VON STADEN ABOUT DATE FOR VISIT TO BERLIN. HE INDICATED HIS STRONG PREFERENCE FOR MAY 26 IN BERLIN WITH ARRIVAL PREVIOUS EVENING IN BONN. HE NOTED THAT IF IT WERE REALLY INCONVENIENT FOR SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO TO BERLIN ON MAY 25.

2. VON STADEN WILL HAVE RAISED THIS ALREADY BUT AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND MAY WISH TO MONITOR IN THE LIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND.

3. IN MAKING DECISION FOR MAY DATE, SECRETARY WAS AWARE
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OF FRG PREFERENCE THAT VISIT BE MADE IN APRIL AS HAD

BEEN PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED. AT THE SAME TIME, ANY BERLIN VISIT IN NEAR FUTURE INEVITABLY WOULD REQUIRE SHORT NOTICE AND LIKELY TO CAUSE PLANNING COMPLICATIONS WHICH COULD DETRACT FROM IMPACT OF HIS TRIP. IN ADDITION, BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BEST BERLIN FORUM FOR

HIS SPEECH, IS NOT IN SESSION AND MIGHT HAVE TO BE RECONVENED ON SHORT NOTICE. OTHER DETAILS OF TRIP ALSO WOULD HAVE TO BE FIXED WITHIN SHORT TIME FRAME MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE DELICATELY BALANCED TONE NEEDED TO MAKE TRIP SUCCESS WITH BERLINERS WHILE AVOIDING NEGATIVE IMPACT ON SOVIETS. WHILE ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS ARE SURMOUNTABLE, THEY COMPLICATE AND COULD DETRACT FROM EARLIER VISIT.

4. ON BALANCE, SECRETARY MUCH PREFERS TO VISIT BERLIN IN SECOND HALF OF MAY IN CONNECTION WITH TRIP TO EUROPE FOR MULTILATERAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS PLANNED FOR THAT MONTH. CENTO MINISTERIAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED IN ANKARA MAY 22 AND 23. IEA AND OECD MINISTERIAL IN PARIS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED FOR MAY 27, 28 AND 29. NATO MINISTERIAL WILL TAKE PLACE IN BRUSSELS MAY 29 AND 30. THIS SCHEDULE PROVIDES CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BERLIN ENROUTE FROM ANKARA TO PARIS.

5. IN SELECTING MAY 26 DATE, SECRETARY WAS AWARE THAT GENSCHER LIKELY TO BE IN DUBLIN FOR EC MINISTERIAL MEETING AND UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD WANT TO ACCOMPANY SECRETARY TO BERLIN AND THAT THIS MAY POSE A HARD CHOICE FOR GENSCHER WHICH HE WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE TO MAKE. SECRETARY'S CHOICE OF 26TH IS BASED ON STRONG LIKELIHOOD HE WILL MAKE ANOTHER STOP OR TWO FOLLOWING CENTO MEETING AND HIS DESIRE TO LEAVE MAXIMUM SCHEDULING FLEXIBILITY FOR THESE STOPS ON MAY 24 AND 25. ACCORDINGLY, WE WANT TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SCHEDULE VISIT FOR MAY 26. IF THAT DATE CAUSES REAL PROBLEMS FOR SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER, SECRETARY WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR WISHES BY SCHEDULING BERLIN VISIT ON MAY 25. KISSINGER

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